

# Alice Springs Airport WELCOMES VISITORS AND RESIDENTS TO ITS PUBLIC ART PRECINCT



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The Alice Springs Public Art Project started in 2009 and is the result of a strong determination from Northern Territory Airports and the Jumbana Group to showcase the cultural diversity of the Central Australian Desert through indigenous and non-indigenous artwork.

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The project involved art centres and artists from two remote communities, Titjikala and Santa Teresa, as well as two Alice Springs based artists.

As a result of the creative dynamics infused into the artistic workshops conducted in August 2009, the Public Art Precinct resonates with multiple aesthetic references and merges tradition with the contemporary.

The Public Art Precinct collection consists of 24 pillar bases, 18 bollards, canopies, awnings, a free standing sculpture, fence and signage. The art on display is an ode to the Central Australian artistic landscape, a statement with a positive message.

## INDIGENOUS ART \*1

To create a number of elements in the Precinct, collaborative art workshops were run in two remote Indigenous community art centres, Keringke Art Centre at Santa Teresa and Tapatjatjaka Art Centre at Titjikala. Artists responded by creating dynamic works for this public space which were then adapted for layout and application by Balarinji Studio.

The Precinct includes a colourful **canopy** spanning the length of the taxi stand.

The art combines the designs of Titjikala's Nora Campbell and Santa Teresa's Patricia Ellis. Patricia Ellis' work uses designs she developed of Keringke Rockhole.

Nora Campbell's work is vibrant, full of movement using bright, lively colours built up over a more earthy background symbolising her land and walka (symbols) used for women inma (dance and ceremony).

The awnings at the entry of the Airport, the pillar bases and bollards are created from designs from both communities and have been translated into stainless steel by Bertazzo Engineering.



The **bollards**, adjacent to the public car park, translate the art of Marcia Alice and Nora Campbell from Titjikala.

The **pillar bases** feature the works of Santa Teresa's Patricia Ellis, Muriel Williams and Josette Young.

The **awnings** feature Annette Gilligan from Titjikala and Patricia Ellis from Santa Teresa.

Motifs from the work of Rosina Ryder are applied to the taxi stand **fence**, which was crafted and erected by Ross Engineering.

#### NON INDIGENOUS ART \*2

The **Storyleaves sculpture**, designed by local artists Pamela Lofts and Pip McManus, greets the visitors with a burst of colour suggesting the remarkable vitality and luminosity of Central Australia.

The three leaf-like forms evoke an Indigenous oral storytelling tradition, whereby gum leaves, often representing characters in stories, are poked into the ground and moved around as the storyteller recounts a tale.

Dazzling flocks of budgerigars, native to the Central Desert regions, signal proximity to water, which they frequent after rain to breed, and are honoured here by a line of verse by the Australian poet Roland Robinson (1912-1992). Robinson sought to promote Indigenous Australian ideas and customs, and spent many years in the Northern Territory.

#### Project milestones:

Art Workshops – Aug 2009  
Bollards delivered – Feb 2010  
Sheaths delivered – Mar 2010  
2D Awning Sculpture Pieces delivered – Sep 2010  
3D Free Standing Sculpture delivered – Oct 2010  
Canopy delivered – Dec 2010  
Fence delivered – Feb 2011  
Signage delivered – Mar 2011

#### Manufacture and installation of iron and steel structures:

Bertazzo Engineered <http://www.bertazzoeng.com.au>  
Ross Engineering <http://www.rossengineering.com.au>

#### For more information contact:

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\*1 Texts courtesy of Balarinji Studio [www.jumbana.com.au](http://www.jumbana.com.au)

\*2 Texts courtesy of Pip McManus <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~pipmcmanus>

\*3 Pictures courtesy of April Goodman [www.movingpictures.com.au](http://www.movingpictures.com.au) and Lisa Cryer